

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 16, 1999 LB 179

everything else fit. What then when you get down to 5 (a), neuromuscular or neurological disease is of a progressive nature, and that has to be checked yes. As Senator Wickersham, what if you have had a stroke and you have a sudden neurological disease condition? So, yes, we are enlarging the disability exemption. We are doing it in a narrowly defined way that pertains just to the issue of locomotion that is in current statute. We are defining it more clearly. We are referring that braces, crutches, canes, wheelchairs, artificial limbs and all those, to say it is that require the regular use of a mechanical aid or prostheses, and I think this is a more clearly defined definition. It enlarges it to the extent that they are people that are fitting into this same condition but, because of the terminology, do not do it, and I think it is a very justifiable enlargement of the homestead exemption that pertains specifically to the disabled low-income individual.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to close on this section of the committee amendments.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, I am quite grateful actually for the discussion that Senator Beutler has caused of these provisions. I think that this body makes its best decisions when we've had this kind of discussion. When 25 people here understand an issue and make a decision in favor or against something, that's when we're at our best. And I think that's what we'll be able to do this morning because Senator Beutler has caused us to discuss this issue. But now that the discussion is over and we have come to the time when we have to make up our minds, I hope that you will support the committee amendments because we do have, as a component of this program, assisting persons to stay in their home when otherwise they might not be able to do that. And if they are not able to stay in their home, and I don't want to sound too much like a Grinch here but we've had a couple of folks from the Appropriations Committee talk so I think I can be a little "Grinchy", but if we are able to maintain folks in their home, that is the least expensive for the rest of the public and it is the best for the person. If that is part of what we can achieve with the committee amendments then I think they deserve your support, even at the cost that is stated. Now I did...maybe made an